

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PEKING 02228 211021Z  
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10  
NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 /042 W  
-----007305 220448Z /15  
R 210840Z JUL 78  
FM USLO PEKING  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1437  
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 2228

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MORG CH

SUBJ: REINSTATEMENT OF PLA RANKS

WESTERN MILITARY ATTACHES HAVE TOLD US THAT THE PRC IS CONSIDERING RE-ESTABLISHING RANKS IN THE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY. PLA RANKS WERE ABOLISHED IN 1965. THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT OF THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE FORMALLY ASKED (BY OFFICIAL NOTE) SEVERAL DAYS AGO THE MILITARY ATTACHES OF GREAT BRITAIN, FRANCE, WEST GERMANY, CANADA, AND EGYPT FOR SAMPLES OF UNIFORMS FOR ALL THE MILITARY SERVICES OF THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES. WHILE CHAN CHENG-WEN, DIRECTOR OF THE MND FOREIGN AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT, TOLD A WESTERN MILITARY ATTACHE SEVERAL WEEKS AGO THAT THE PRC WAS NOT PREPARING TO RE-ESTABLISH THE RANK SYSTEM, A WEST EUROPEAN COLLEAGUE REPORTS THAT HE HAS HEARD A CENTRAL DOCUMENT WAS ISSUED AS EARLY AS APRIL ON THE SUBJECT. ACCORDING TO THE CENTRAL DOCUMENT, THE QUESTION IS UNDER RECONSIDERATION AND ASKED THAT MILITARY UNITS MAKE THEIR VIEWS KNOWN TO HIGHER AUTHORITIES.  
WOODCOCK

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY PERSONNEL, ARMED FORCES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 21 jul 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978PEKING02228  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780301-0588  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** PEKING  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780733/aaaabbwo.tel  
**Line Count:** 47  
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**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** 07e5146f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 1  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 10 may 2005  
**Review Event:**  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1926097  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** REINSTATEMENT OF PLA RANKS WESTERN MILITARY ATTACHES HAVE TOLD US THAT THE PRC IS CONSIDERING RE-ESTABLISHING RANKS IN THE PEOPLE'S  
**TAGS:** MORG, CH  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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